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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Strengthen the constitutional commitments of the Members of this people's House in their work today. Guide and sustain them in Your wisdom, and inspire all, especially those in leadership, with the insights needed to assist our Nation at this time.

As the Members return once again to their districts, may their encounters with those whom they represent be fruitful and bring confidence to all that our future as a Nation will be secure and productive.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ENYART) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ENYART led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SAVE MEDICARE HOME HEALTH ACT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of the Securing Access Via Excellence, or SAVE, Medicare Home Health Act, legislation introduced by my colleagues Mr. WALDEN and Dr. PRICE to replace the cuts to Medicare home health funding under the President's Affordable Care Act with a value-based purchasing program.

Home health care allows the ill and disabled to access essential care services within the home setting and enables our seniors to have more control over health care decisions.

The Affordable Care Act cuts Medicare home health by 14 percent by the year 2017. This will have a devastating impact on a large portion of the 3.5 million Americans who receive these services, including more than 143,000 in Pennsylvania. Of equal concern, these cuts could result in the loss of thousands of jobs for caregivers and health professionals.

The SAVE Medicare Home Health Act will achieve the same level of savings in the Medicare program. Rather than indiscriminately cut this funding, this legislation protects beneficiaries' access to home health by making these services more effective and cost efficient.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation. America's seniors deserve as much.

PASSING OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN KEN GRAY

(Mr. ENYART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to commemorate the life of a great

southern Illinoisan, a man who knew this Chamber very well, U.S. Congressman Ken Gray.

Kenny's ability to fight for southern Illinois is unmatched, from building interstate highways, Rend Lake, the Marion Federal Penitentiary, to building bridges, countless post offices, and water lines.

Whether convincing President Carter to tour an underground mine or escorting President Kennedy to Carbondale and Marion, Congressman Gray was a one-of-a-kind advocate for southern Illinois.

I counted Kenny among my friends, and he loved serving in this House. We will always remember him as the gentleman whose personality was as colorful as the suits he wore to the Capitol each day.

Colleagues, join me in remembering World War II veteran, Congressman Ken Gray.

Kenny, thank you for your service to your Nation, your State, and to southern Illinois.

PROTECTING OUR DIGITAL ECONOMY

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is important to highlight legislation that the House passed this week protecting the future of our digital economy.

The rise of the Internet has been a great American success story. One of the biggest reasons for its success is the fact that the government hasn't needlessly gotten in the way of innovators who have grown the information superhighway to what it is today.

This week, the House passed, with bipartisan overwhelming support, the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act to continue to allow the Internet to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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